

38
T O T H E

Independent Freeholders of SUFFOLK.

SIR GERARD VANNECK having thought proper to disturb the Peace of this County, unwarrantably drawing us into that Confusion, and Loss of good Neighbourhood, which are the certain Attendants of contested Elections; I, as an independent Freeholder, am at a Loss to know on what Grounds he can possibly be justified.

First, let me inquire what are his Motives.—Are they, that he can obtain no other Seat in Parliament?—Are they, that Mr. Fox and his Party have required him to stand forth as the most respectable Candidate they can produce, against the common Sense of the People?—Are they, that his private Friends have urgently recommended the Measure?—Are they, that his Pretensions are better than Sir JOHN ROUS's, our present worthy Member?—or than Sir CHARLES BUNBURY's, who represented us many Years? I will venture to affirm, that he has not one of these Pleas to offer in his Favour.

Secondly, I desire to know, What Line of public Conduct it is that he can boast of, during four Parliaments, to entitle him to offer himself so particularly to our Notice?—Is it his Independence in having voted an Address of Thanks for the last Peace, in the House of Commons, on the Monday Evening; and upon the Friday following, when a Change of Ministry seemed inevitable, his having given an hearty Concurrence to a severe Censure of that very Peace, which in the same Week he had highly applauded?—Is it his Consistency in having uniformly supported the infamous Coalition in their flagrant Violation of Charters, by their India Bill, aiming thereby a fatal Blow at the Vitals of our Constitution, by endeavouring to establish a fourth Estate?—Is it his Patriotism, in having aided their Manœuvres to thrust themselves into Power, against the Voice of the Nation, at the Conclusion of the last Parliament, by venal Majorities, which did not speak the Sentiments of their Constituents?—Or does he more pride himself on having strenuously co-operated with them in their last daring Attempt to establish an unconstitutional Regency, calculated to deprive us of the best of Sovereigns, by asserting an unheard-of Right in a Prince of Wales, to assume the Reins of Government during the Life of his Father?—an Attempt not only reprobated, and looked upon with Horror at Home; but the Disgrace of his unprincipled Party in every Court of Europe.

Or, lastly, Does he claim to himself superior Merit from the Engagements entered into with the Dissenters, by a Member of their Body commissioned to speak for him at their Meeting, held a few Weeks since at Stowmarket; which Meeting, whilst it created an Alarm in those Persons least prejudiced before, was the Means of rivetting Sir Gerard Vanneck to their Cause. Thus has he completed his political Career, by an Attack upon the established Church, after all his Efforts to overturn the State, and dethrone our gracious Sovereign, have proved ineffectual.

To conclude:—Let me intreat you, Fellow Citizens, to be firm, to be true to your King and Country. Be not caught unawares; but when you are canvassed by Sir Gerard Vanneck, or his Agents, let every honest Freeholder give a decisive Damper to his Importunities, by openly answering,—*I am a Well-wisher to Church and State,—I am a Friend to Peace and good Neighbourhood,—I will receive no Share of your Twenty Thousand Pounds,—I am a Loyal Subject, and*

N O D U T C H M A N.